

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----007221 232341Z /73  
R 232259Z DEC 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8895

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, ECOSOC, UNDP  
SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING: THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S THOUGHTS  
ON PERSONNEL

1. DURING A CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL DECEMBER 22, AMBASSADOR YOUNG RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 21 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, YOUNG REVIEWED OUR EARLY CONCLUSION THAT IF THE THIRD WORLD WERE TO PERSERVERE IN THEIR DEMANDS FOR RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTOR OF THE UN, AS SEEMED INEVITABLE, THE US SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT. HE SAID OUR THINKING WAS THAT IF THE US RESISTED THE CREATION OF THE POST, WE COULD BE OVERWHELEMED BY THE THIRD WORLD MEMBERSHIP AND WE WOULD HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON THE MANDATE GIVEN THE NEW OFFICIAL. IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE THAT IMPRESSION AND TO PROVIDE OURSELVES WITH MAXIMUM INFLUENCE IN THE PROJECT, WE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY. HE SAID WE HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT HOWEVER IT IS ARRANGED, THE THIRD WORLD PROBABLY NEEDS TO HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION IN THE SECRETARIAT. PRESSURES IN THIS DIRECTION WERE OBVIOUS AND IT SEEMED LIKELY TO HAPPEN EVENTUALLY IN ANY EVENT. THE PROBLEM WAS HOW TO ACCOMPLISH IT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE  
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WAY.

2. YOUNG WENT ON TO EXPLAIN OUR VIEW THAT, TAKING A LONG-TERM VIEW OF THE UN, WE DID NOT WISH TO SEE A SPLIT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH OR DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE THEREFORE WERE INTENT UPON SEEKING SOME MEANS TO DRAW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INTO MEANINGFUL

PARTICIPATION, AND EVEN LEADERSHIP, IN THE EFFORT TO REBUILD THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US. YOUNG TOLD WALDHEIM THAT OUR INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ENTIRELY FOUNDED ON THESE CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLE AND LONG-TERM INTEREST IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN. THE US HAS NEVER HAD AN INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITION, AND WE DO NOT NOW HAVE ONE. THE US HAS NO DESIRE TO CONTROL THIS POSITION.

3. WALDHEIM READILY ACCEPTED THIS POINT, BUT HE NOTED THAT IT WAS A SOURCE OF AN EARLIER MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH IS STILL HELD BY MANY STATES ABOUT OUR INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT. AMBASSADOR YOUNG COMMENTED THAT BECAUSE OF THESE SENSITIVITIES WE HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT TO HAVE WHATEVER DECISION IS TO BE MADE BE MADE BY CONSENSUS.

4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID HIS THINKING ABOUT THE SELECTION OF THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL BEGAN WITH HIS DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX "FRENCH PROBLEM." HE SAID HE HAD TOLD FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD IN PARIS THAT FRANCE SHOULD CEDE ITS SENIOR ECONOMIC POSITION TO A THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALL OF THE REASONS AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD OUTLINED. HE DESCRIBED DE GUIRINGAUD'S REACTION AS ANGRY AND RIGIDLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A SUGGESTION. WALDHEIM SAID HE THEREFORE HAD RESIGNED HIMSELF TO DOING WHAT HE COULD WITH THE SITUATION AS IT STOOD. BUT HE FOUND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ALMOST TOTALLY UNABLE TO WORK WITH UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LAETHEM. WHILE HE IS A SERIOUS AND SENIOR MAN, HE HAS PROVEN UNABLE TO CREATE THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE WITH THE THIRD WORLD. MOST

OF HIS ATTITUDES AND IDEAS ARE STILL CAST ON THE "OLD LINE." WALDHEIM SAID HE KNEW FRENCH APPOINTEE RIPERT IS GOOD; IF RIPERT HAD BEEN THE ORIGINAL INCUMBENT IN THE FRENCH POSITION THERE WOULD NOT NOW BE SUCH A COMPLICATED "FRENCH PROBLEM."

5. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAS NEVER BEEN OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF A THE NEW DIRECTOR GNEERALSHIP. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE FRENCH OVER SENIOR LEADERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, HOWEVER, HE HAS FROM THE BEGINNING WARNED ALL THAT GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN AT THE SELECTION OF THE NEW OFFICER. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD LAID DOWN ONE CONDITION IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC-9: THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE NAMED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A SECOND SECRETARY GENERAL. HE INSISTED THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MUST BE UNDER THE SECRETARY GENERAL AS PART OF THE SECRETARIAT. WITH THAT CONDITION SATISFIED, HOWEVER, WALDHEIM SAID HE WELCOMED THE CREATION OF THE NEW POST AND WOULD BE IMMENSELY ASSISTATED BY THE NEW MAN.

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6. WALDHEIM INFORMALLY TICKED OFF SOME OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW POST, STRESSING THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE CANDID AND MUST BE HELD CLOSELY CONFIDENTIAL. HE FIRST MENTIONED MANSOUR KHALID OF SUDAN, SAYING THAT KHALID APPEARS TO BE OUT OF THE RUNNING BECAUSE HE OVERDID HIS PERSONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE JOB. IT WAS A BAD MISTAKE FOR HIM TO COME TO NEW YORK TO LOBBY AMONG THE DELEGATIONS. HIS EFFORT HAD CAUSED A SPLIT BETWEEN NORTH AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICANS, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH NORTH AFRICANS ARE WELL-REPRESENTED IN THE SECRETARIAT, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICANS ARE FAR LESS SO. THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICANS ALSO POINT OUT THAT KHALID IS NOT AN ECONOMIST. WALDHEIM OBSERVED PERSONALLY, THAT, IN ANY EVENT, KHALID SEEMS TO HIM TO LACK THE ESSENTIAL DRIVING FORCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE NEW JOB.

7. WALDHEIM WENT ON THE SAY THAT GHANIAN PERM REP BOATEN HAD PUT FORTH KEN DADZIE'S NAME FOR THE JOB. WALDHEIM SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE DOUBTS DADZIE'S DRIVE AND OBSERVED THAT THOUGH HE IS LIKELABLE AND HAS MANY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM, HE DOES NOT HAVE A STRONG SUBSTANTIVE REPUTATION.

8. WALDHEIM NEXT NAMED PAKISTANI PERM REP AKHUND, BUT SAID A NUMBER OF KEY DELEGATIONS DO NOT SEEM TO BE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC FOR HIM. ALTHOUGH THE REASONS FOR  
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GENERAL COOLNESS ON AKHUND IN THE COMMUNITY ARE NOT CLEAR, IT IS TRUE THAT THE ASIAN GROUP ALREADY HAS COREA IN A SENIOR POSITION (UNCTAD). COREA'S APPOINTMENT IN FACT CAME ABOUT WHEN THE LATIN AMERICANS DEFAULTED FOR LACK OF A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE AT THE TIME THE POSITION WAS FILLED.

9. CONCERNING LATIN AMERICAN POSSIBILITIES, WALDHEIM MENTIONED SOMOZA OF NICARAGUA AND IGLESIAS, HEAD OF ECLA. CONCERNING SOMOZA, WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD RECEIVED HIS PAPERS, BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT. TURNING TO IGLESIAS, HOWEVER, WALDHEIM CANDIDLY POINTED TO HIM AS THE BEST CANDIDATE OF ALL WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED THUS FAR. HE SAID IGLESIAS IS YOUNG, DYNAMIC, GETS ALONG WITH EVERYONE AND KNOWS THE UN SYSTEM INTIMATELY. HE ALSO HAS BONA FIDE ECONOMIC CREDENTIALS.

10. AMBASSADOR YOUNG COMMENTED THAT ALL OF THE CANDIDATES MENTIONED BY WALDHEIM SEEMED TO HIM TO BE IMPRESSIVE. CONCERNING IGLESIAS, YOUNG SAID HE KNEW OF NO REASON WHY THE US WOULD FIND OBJECTION TO HIM. HE WENT ON TO SPECULATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH AN IGLESIAS CANDIDACY MAY BE TO SEEL HIM TO THE AFRICANS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT WISH TO CONSULT LEADING AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES LIKE SALI AND HARRIMAN (NIGERIAN). HE SAID THAT THEY QUITE NATURALLY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SOMEBODY LIKE DADZIE, BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT THEY HAD SPOKEN OF THE POSSIBILITY OF DADZIE FOR THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN UNDP. YOUNG RECALLED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT DADZIE HIMSELF WAS NOT EAGER TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL POST, BUT THE GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE DEVELOPING SOME INTEREST. IN ANY EVENT, THESE AFRICAN INTERESTS PROBABLY SHOULD BE CONSULTED IF THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN IGLESIAS.  
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11. THE SECRETARY GENERAL CLOSED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT HE INTENDED TO RESUME HIS CONSULTATIONS ON THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL IN MID-JANUARY, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM CYPRUS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SPECIFIC DEADLINE FOR A DECISION, HE RECALLED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION SUGGESTS DECISION BY THE END OF MARCH 1978. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID HE ALSO FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE LONGER PERSONNEL MATTERS OF THIS KIND ARE LEFT UNRESOLVED IN THE UN, THE MORE COMPLICATED THEY BECOME.  
YOUNG

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